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(Spent 07/96)

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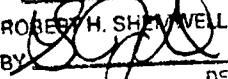
1765565 - R8 SDMS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT DIVISION

U. S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

FILED

AUG 2 1996

ROBERT H. SHEPHERD, CLERK
BY  DEPUTY

CRYSTAL OIL COMPANY, ET AL.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-2115

versus

JUDGE STAGG

ATLANTIC RICHFIELD &
PRODUCTION CO., ET AL.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE PAYNE

MEMORANDUM ORDER

Currently before the Court is the Motion for Stay pending appeal filed by Atlantic Richfield Company ("ARCO") on July 31, 1996. ARCO seeks to stay the referral of the discharge claim in this case to the Bankruptcy Court of this district. Because the issues raised in the appeal do not appear to have substantial merit, the Court concludes that there is no good reason to delay the proceedings on the discharge claim in the Bankruptcy Court. Even if Judge Stagg were to conclude that the reference should be withdrawn or vacated, the efforts devoted to resolution of the discharge claim in the Bankruptcy Court would not be wasted. Accordingly, the Motion for Stay is **DENIED**.

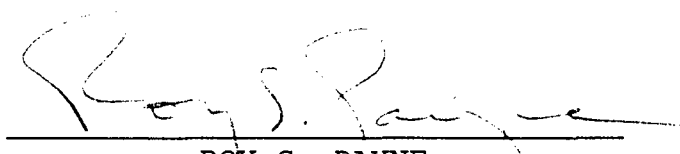
However, the motion also raises the fact that Crystal has filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on the contract claim. This court has ordered that the contract claim be transferred to the

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District of Colorado, although that transfer has been stayed pending appeal to Judge Stagg. ARCO should not be required to oppose that motion for summary judgment in this court unless Judge Stagg vacates the transfer. Accordingly, all further proceedings on the contract claim, including the Motion for Summary Judgment filed on July 30, 1996, **are stayed** pending further Order, except for those proceedings related to the appeal.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Shreveport, Louisiana, on this the 15th day of August, 1996.



ROY S. PAYNE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

JUDGEMENT ENTERED 08/02/96
BY Loft
COPY TO Wyers Freeman
Obbard Milner
Adams Okcy Court